

## FEBRUARY 2020 NEWS: CHURCH --

**Sunday, February 2 at 9:30 am** – Bob Anderson will be conducting a Communion Service taking a fresh look at our meanings and beliefs about communion. In a circle of sharing around the table, we will question and rethink everything from the past and in the present, which our lives hold about this monthly ritual. Please take some time to delve into your beliefs and experiences at this table before coming, and be prepared to engage in “communion” in some new ways.

**Sunday, February 9 at 9:30 am** – Angie and Adam Veal, Michael McGuinness and Dan Burnett will lead us in a Music Service.

**Sunday, February 16 at 9:30 am** – Unitarian minister, Amanda Aiken will be our guest speaker.

**Sunday, February 23 at 9:30 am** – Don Burnett will be our guest speaker.



**Pastor's Corner** – When you read this newsletter, I will be just starting a month of sabbatical time. The word sabbatical is related to ‘sabbath,’ a reference to a sense of *holiness-in-time*; Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel describes it as a turning ‘*from the results of creation to the mystery of creation.*’ Sabbatical time is often associated with travel, retreat, study. I’ve hopes for bits of that with books already at hand. Many of you have also heard me, uninspiringly, mention that a chunk of time will be engaged in dumping files. That’s the summary version. The hope is to

be lighter, to honor *the eternal within time*, less hindered by the background noise of papers and more papers! Practically speaking, what this sabbatical means is that for the month of February I will not be available through the phone, email, etc. For pastoral **emergencies**, Rev. Becky Withington, current pastor of New Pilgrims Community UCC, Anacortes will be on call (360-772-0185). I write grateful for this time and for all of you. I’ll be back on Sunday, March 1! Prayers and peace—Sally

**Women’s Book Group - Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 9:30 am:** The Church Women’s Book Group will meet at Brenda Griffin’s to discuss the first four chapters of *Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass. Brenda’s address is 4792 W Shore Road; she’s in the guesthouse, NOT the big house.

**Revised Church Bylaws** – Immediately following the church service on February 23, we will vote on the bylaws changes presented at the January Congregational Meeting. The proposed revisions are posted on the church bulletin board. If you would like a pdf copy email Lynn Prewitt [redhouselynn@gmail.com](mailto:redhouselynn@gmail.com).

## FEBRUARY 2020 NEWS: COMMUNITY--

**GATHERING LUNCHESES – Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20 and 27 11:30 am-12:15 pm:** These lunches are a great opportunity to have someone else do the cooking and to meet and eat with friends and neighbors. Find lunch menus online at [Linetime.org](http://Linetime.org). Suggested donation is \$5.



**Simple Gesture/ Red Bag Collection** – The next collection day is Saturday, February 9. Drop your bags at the Church between 8:00 and 9:00 am that day or any day that the Church is open. The current food shortages are: crackers, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, and meals in a can. The special request this time is for Senior-friendly items, such as Depends (only pull up type), incontinence pads, and Ensure.



**Immigrant Sock Drive Continues** – Omi Cumming’s cousin from New England has donated two lovely pairs of 100% wool socks. The wool was carded, spun, and knitted by hand. One pair is a light gold and the other is a medium tan. Both pairs would fit a women’s medium or a man’s small foot. The socks can be seen on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Send your bid by check to Connie Snell, 5889 S Shore Road, Anacortes, WA 98221. Make your check out to the Guemes Church and enter Immigration Sock Drive on bottom left line, along with which pair you are bidding on. Checks must be received by February 22 in order to be entered. You may bid on one pair or both. Each pair of socks will go to the highest bidder. All proceeds will be sent to Skagit County Immigrant Services.



**Featured Artist at the Church** – The artwork of Guemes Island artist Rebecca Hyland is currently on display in the church foyer. Come view and enjoy any time the church is open.

## UPCOMING IN MARCH--

### Planning a Good Death Series - Thursdays, March 12, March 19, and Tuesday, March 24

*Speaking of Dying*



*Living Deeply ... Dying Well*

This series will cover topics relating to dealing with the approaching death of a loved one or of oneself and the aftermath. The first two sessions will be facilitated by Lynn Prewitt and Connie Snell. The final session on funeral planning will be led by the Executive Director of People’s Memorial Association. The series is open to all, free of charge. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences.

**Thursday, March 12, 1:00 pm** - In this first session, we will view the video *Speaking of Dying*. Informative and intimate, the video captures the importance of individuals and groups speaking openly about all aspects of the dying process. Viewing this film will inspire and encourage you to talk with your friends, family, and health care providers about your own end of life planning choices and wishes.

**Thursday, March 19, 1:00 pm** – It’s never too soon to start thinking about your end of life and what things need to be taken care of such as necessary documentation; types of care (e.g., palliative care, hospice care, nursing home care, in-home care, etc.); help available on Guemes; Death with Dignity; and Medicare requirements to name a few.

**Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 pm (note day and time change)** - Nora Menkin, Executive Director of People’s Memorial Association, a funeral education and advocacy nonprofit organization, will be the presenter. Topics to be covered include: options for disposition of the body, the cost of each option, the legal documents needed to get your wishes down in writing. All participants will receive printed materials. There will be time for questions during the presentation.

**Note:** *If you have program ideas for the larger Guemes community, call Connie Snell, 360-708-3589 or email her at [conniemsnell@gmail.com](mailto:conniemsnell@gmail.com). Also, contact Connie if you’d like to reserve the church facilities for group or personal events. **There is no fee for using church facilities; however, donations are much appreciated.** If you would like to be added to the newsletter contact list, email Lynn Prewitt at [redhouselynn@gmail.com](mailto:redhouselynn@gmail.com).*